

Presentation by Barb Sturbaum to the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women

Status of Women Speech

September 7, 2006

Thank you for inviting me to present tonight. I always love an opportunity to talk about Planned Parenthood. I have worked for Planned Parenthood since 1980, starting in the clinic as a volunteer and working my way up to an administrative job with the Title of Director of Procedures.

I feel fortunate to work for an agency committed to increasing access to reproductive health services for both women and men, as well as to providing those services in a way that provides both quality and affordability.

Planned Parenthood of Indiana is a statewide affiliate of PPFA, and is the third largest affiliate in the Planned Parenthood system. In 2005, we served a little over 106,000 patients who made a total of 316,600 visits.

Of those visits,

- 54,800 women had pap smears which is the test for cervical cancer with 9% abnormal
- 43,350 patients had chlamydia tests, and of those 3,132 were positive (7%)
- 23,767 women accessed emergency contraception - reducing the incidence of unintended pregnancy
- 4,941 were abortion visits - only 1% of the total visits made

Of the patients that visit our statewide clinics,

- 27% are under age 19
- 62% are at or below poverty

But let's focus on the local Bloomington clinic. The clinic in Bloomington opened in 1962. It serves the largest number of patients of any PPIN clinic in Indiana. In 2005 the Bloomington clinic served 7,106 patients who made 22,348 visits.

Of those visits,

- 3,600 women had pap smears with 9.6% of those abnormal
- 2,300 patients had a chlamydia test of which 5% were positive
- 1,987 women accessed emergency contraception - reducing the incidence of unintended pregnancy
- In 2005 295 patients received HIV counseling and testing and in the first 6 months of 2006 191 patients received HIV counseling and testing.
- 724 women made a visit for an abortion procedure- 3% of the total visits made
- Of the abortions, 539 were surgical and 185 were medication abortions

Supplies

- Oral contraceptives - 24,600
- DMPA injections - 660
- Evra patch- 1,000
- Nuva ring - 1,250
- Condoms - 3,600

Of the patients that visit our Bloomington facility,

- 22% are under age 19 with a median age of 22 years old
- 68% are at or below poverty and are eligible for Title XX funding. This funding is "fee for service". We do write a grant for the money statewide, and we then access the money by submitting the number of exams or lab services that we provide. We charge a full fee of \$54 for

an annual or initial exam, and Title XX reimburses us \$42 (\$12 less than our charge). Lab tests vary between \$5.00 to \$19.00 and we are reimbursed \$7.50 for each lab test.

Other information

- In 2006 PPIN statewide provided a “Free pap smear day” for those women who can’t qualify for XX funds. The Bloomington clinic did 32 free pap smears in one day at a cost to the agency of \$1,700.
- PPIN maintains a “Women’s Health Fund” to assist women who can’t afford other care. This money is collected from donors including staff as well as fundraising events. In 2005, 151 women were helped with this fund totaling \$5,655.
- The Bloomington clinic will undergo a front office renovation beginning in October. Money for this remodeling has come from generous donors as well as a grant from the Jack Hopkins Social Service Fund from the City of Bloomington.

Education

In 2005, 50 educational programs were done in Monroe county to 2,609 participants. The educator based in the Bloomington clinic also trained 21 peer educators to provide accurate reproductive and sexuality information to their peers.

The education and legislative departments have started a sexuality education initiative and coalition called “Get Real Indiana” which is a multi-pronged approach intended to get comprehensive sexuality education into the school systems and also help women access family planning services across the state.. So far, they have 30 member organizations across the state including several religious congregations, the ICLU, and the League of Women Voters. These groups are charged with engaging parent/teacher and community groups at local levels to try to bring factually accurate birth control information into classrooms.

The legislative department is attempting to sign on legislators to sponsor bills encouraging access to family planning as well as looking at sexuality education programs in all of the state schools.

Roadblocks

We were disappointed to find Indiana ranked 49th in the country for access to reproductive care. There are numerous roadblocks in the way of providing reproductive services.

- Diminishing state and federal funding contribute to the difficulties of providing services. Those funds have been flat or diminishing over the last 10 years, as all fixed and staffing costs have increased.
- Abstinence only programs in the schools have prevented students from getting medically accurate information about birth control and STDs.
- Mis-information from radical religious groups ultimately cause more unintended pregnancy and serious problems from untreated STIs.
- We will no longer have access to nominal pricing (public health sector pricing) causing the cost of supplies to go up dramatically, even though our supply cost is well below a retail pharmacy.

In closing,

- In Indiana approximately 730,000 women are in need of contraceptive services and supplies and in 2005 Planned Parenthood of Indiana provided reproductive care to 14% of those women.
- In Indiana there are 101 publicly funded FP clinics providing contraceptive care to 147,000 women. Planned Parenthood of Indiana served 101,000 women in 2005 - 69% of the women receiving care.